

Myrtus communis

Myrtaceae



Indigenous

Am: *Ades*

Eng: *Common myrtle, Myrtle bush*

Gg: *Ades*

Or: *Addisa, Qodo*

Ecology

A shrub that grows in Moist and Wet Kolla and Weyna Dega agroclimatic zones in Gonder, Harerge, Welo and Shoa, 700–2,500 m.

Uses

Flavouring, perfume, incense (smoke used for pleasant scent in rooms, especially during the traditional coffee ceremony).

Description

A leafy evergreen shrub 3–5 m high.

LEAVES: Simple and opposite, leathery and shiny, oval and sharply tipped to 5 cm long, the base rounded. When crushed sweet-scented oil is released from special cells. **FLOWERS:** Sweet scented, white with 5 petals around many white stamens, to 3 cm across. **FRUIT:** A rounded blue-black berry, 1 cm or less.

Propagation

Seedlings, cuttings.

Seed

Treatment: Not necessary.

Storage:

Management

Coppicing to encourage branching and more leaf production.

Remarks

Widely cultivated since ancient times. In Ethiopia it is used for perfuming butter to be used in hair dressing, as an additive to 'injera', a local bread made from tef.

